

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-05 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5350

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PASS NIH FOR QUINN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, GW

SUBJECT: HOST GOVERNMENT CONSTRAINTS ON SCIENTISTS
DOING RESEARCH ON DNA/RNA RECOMBINANTS

REF: STATE 298844, PARIS 33211

1. A JOINT COMMITTEE "SAFETY OF NEW GENE COMBINATIONS" WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IN MARCH 1975 BY THE GERMAN RESEARCH SOCIETY (DEUTSCHE FORSCHUNGSGEMEINSCHAFT, DFG), COMPRISING MEMBERS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE, HEALTH, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY), THE RESEARCH SOCIETY, AND GERMAN SCIENTISTS TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR SCIENTISTS AS WELL AS PROPOSALS FOR LEGAL MEASURES IN THE FIELD OF DNA/RNA RECOMBINANTS. NO RECOMMENDATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AS YET. HOWEVER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT A FIRST DRAFT COVERING BOTH ASPECTS WILL BE AVAILABLE BY SPRING 1976. IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT THE SCIENTIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS WILL CLOSELY RELATE THE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED AT THE ASILOMAR CONFERENCES, WHICH ARE AT PRESENT, CONSIDERED AS BINDING FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

2. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM THE
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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SIMILAR COMMISSIONS HAVE BEEN ESTAB-

LISHED BY THE
EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND BY THE EUROPEAN MOLEC-
ULAR BIOLOGY ORGANIZATION (EMBO). THE FRG RECOMMENDS
CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN ALL BODIES ACTIVE IN
THIS FIELD ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, AND WOULD AP-
PRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED BY NIH ABOUT US ACTIVITIES
AND MEASURES.

3. THE EMBASSY IS TRYING TO OBTAIN SOME BACKGROUND
MATERIAL (IN DRAFT FORM) WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO
DR. QUINN, NIH, AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.
HILLENBRAND

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